

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed April 2, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicants submit the following remarks, have canceled claims, and have amended claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1-24 were pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 1-5, 7-8, 13, 15-16, and 23-24 have been canceled. Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute at least some of the canceled claims and similar claims in one or more related Applications. Accordingly, claims 6, 9-12, 14, and 17-22 are now pending in this Application. Claims 6, 14, 21, and 22 are independent claims.

Allowed Claims

Claims 21-24 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten claims 21 and 22 to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 21 and 22 are now in allowable condition.

Applicants have rewritten independent claim 6 to include all of the limitations of dependent claim 23 and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 6 is now in allowable condition. Because claims 9-12 depend from and further limit claim 6, claims 9-12 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons as claim 6.

Applicants have rewritten independent claim 14 to include all of the limitations of dependent claim 24 and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 14 is now in allowable condition. Because claims 17-20 depend from and further

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limit claim 14, claims 17-20 are in allowable condition for at least the same reasons as claim 14.

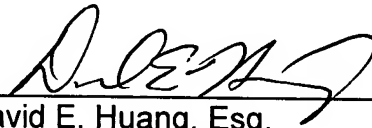
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Amendment, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' Representative at the number below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this Amendment, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3661.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-2900, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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